A true Copie or tranſcript of hir Maieſties

Letters Pattents graunted to the Inhabitants of Selſey for the repairing
of an auncient Towre or Steeple there being continued for a notable
Sea-marke to all Sailers and Trauailers by Sea.

ELizabeth by the grace of God Queene of England, Fraunce, and Ireland, defender of the faith &c. To all and ſingular Archbiſhops, Biſhops, Archdeacons, Deanes, and their officials, Parſons, Vicars, Curats, and to all other Spirituall perſons. And alſo to all Juſtices of Peace. Maiors, Sheriffes, Bailiffes, Conſtables, Churchwardens, and to all other our officers, Miniſters, and ſubiectes whatſoeuer they bee aſwell within liberties as without, to whom theſe preſents ſhall come greeting. Whereas we are credibly giuen to vnderſtand aſwell by the pittifull ſupplication and petition of our poore and true ſubiectes the Inhabitants of the Iſle and pariſh of Selſey in our Countie of Suſſex, as alſo by the teſtimoniall of Thomas Pelham Eſquire, Thomas Lewkenor Eſquire, Richard Lewkenor Eſquire, George Goring Eſquire, Henrie Goring Eſquire, Nicholas Parker Eſquire, Thomas Biſhop, Eſquire, Henrie Shelley Eſquire, William Morley Eſquire, Richard Blounte Eſquire, Iohn Colepeper Eſquire, Anthonie Shurley Eſquire, Richard Leche Eſquire, Iohn Shurley Eſquire, and William Bartelott Eſquire, Juſtices of Peace there. And alſo of a great number of the chiefe and moſt expert Sailers and Maiſters of Barkes and Shippes of our ſaide Countie and diuers other Maiſters and Sailers of other Ports of our Realme, that there is in the ſaide Iſle of Selſey, one olde ſtone Steeple of a great height adioyning neere to the Sea, which of moſt auncient time out of mind and at this preſent is a notable Sea-marke for all Merchants and trauailers by Sea vpon the Southcoaſt, from the Eaſt to the Weſt, and from the Weſt to the Eaſt, wherby not onlie the ſaid Maiſters of Merchant Ships but alſo the Maiſters of our Ships take principall marke for the auoiding the dangers of great Rockes and Shalles lying out tenne miles from the ſhoare, being one of the moſt dangerous places vpon that Coaſt called the Shalles: which ſaid Steeple ſtanding a part & diſtant from the Church of the ſaid pariſh hath time out of minde beene maintained for the benefite of our Nauie, and the commoditie of all Sailers and Merchants, the ſame lying little or nothing at all beneficiall or commodious to the Pariſhioners of the ſaid Pariſh, and is now ſo ruinous as it is like verie ſhortlie to fall downe if it be not ſpeedilie repaired and ſuſtained, and that the charges thereof (as hath beene teſtified by workemen that haue viewed the ſame) will amount to the ſumme of two hundred pounds at the leaſt, which is a burthen far aboue the abilitie of the Pariſhioners of the ſaide Pariſh to beare, being for the moſt part in manner all poore Fiſhermen, & Copieholders: In conſideration whereof & at the humble ſute of the aboue named Juſtices of Peace: Know ye that wee haue lycenſed and by theſe preſents doe licence the ſaide Inhabitants of the Iſle and Pariſh of Selſey aforeſaide, or any of them bearers hereof to aſke, gather, receiue, and take thalmes charitie and deuotion of our louing ſubiectes inhabiting and dwelling within our Counties of Suſſex, Kent, Surrie, and South: with our Cities of London the Suburbes of the ſame: Canterburie, Chicheſter, and Wincheſter, our towne of Southhampton, and the Iſle of Wight, with all ports, limmes and limits whatſoeuer, in our ſaid Counties of Kent, Suſſex, and alſo in all townes corporate whatſoeuer, in anie of our Counties aboue named: and not elſewhere, towardes the reedifying, repairing, and new building of the ſaid ſteeple. Wherefore we will and commaunde you, and euerie of you, that at ſuch time or tymes as the ſaide Inhabitants or anie of them bearers hereof, ſhall come and repayre to anie your Churches, or other places, to aſke, and gather the charitie and deuotion of our louing ſubiectes as aforeſaide, quietly to permit and ſuffer them and any of them ſo to doe, without any maner your lettes, interruption, or contradiction. And you the ſaid Spirituall Parſons to declare the tenure of theſe our letters Pattents vnto our ſayd ſubiectes: Exhorting them to extende their charities for the cauſes aforeſaid: And for the ſpeedie collection of the charitie and almes aforeſaid: We will and commaund you all and ſingular Conſtables, Headboroughs, and Churchwardens, that you immediatelie vpon the receit hereof, doe collect and gather of our ſaid louing Subiects, their charitable almes and the ſame ſo gathered forthwith to be deliuered to the bearer or bearers hereof, to the vſe aforeſaid: In witneſſe whereof, wee haue cauſed theſe our Letters to be made Pattents for the ſpace of one whole yeare next after the date hereof to endure. Witneſſe our ſelfe at Weſtminſter the twelfe day of Februarie in the two and thirteth yeare of our Raigne.

Stewarde.

God ſaue the Queene.